

## **POSITION OF THE BOARD OF NURSING REGARDING THE USE OF NURSE TECHNICIANS**

The Nurse Technician is a nursing student who either is actively enrolled in a board approved school of professional nursing, has graduated from such program and does not hold a temporary permit or who has been unsuccessful on the nursing licensure exam and is retaking the exam. This position applies to students or graduates who are employed by agencies or facilities outside of the nursing school program, and does not apply to the supervised clinical experience of the nursing school program. It also does not apply to the role or requirements of the graduate nurse (G.N.) or graduate practical nurse (G.P.N.) who holds a temporary permit. The position of Nurse Technician will only be available up to 6 months from the date of graduation.

The Nurse Technician always functions under the direct supervision of the registered nurse. Under s. N6.02 (6), Wisconsin Administrative Code, direct supervision means immediate availability to continually coordinate, direct and inspect at first hand the practice of another. This has been interpreted by the board to require that the supervising RN must be in the same facility as the nurse technician.

Under s. N6.03 (3), Wisconsin Administrative Code, the supervising RN may delegate acts within the scope of professional nursing to the Nurse Technician, provided the RN does the following:

1. Delegates tasks commensurate with educational preparation and demonstrated abilities of the Nurse Technician;
2. Provides direction and assistance to the Nurse Technician;
3. Observes and monitors the activities of the Nurse Technician; and,
4. Evaluates the effectiveness of acts performed by the Nurse Technician.

The Board of Nursing cautions RN's, agencies and facilities that the Nurse Technician is not licensed to practice nursing either as an RN or LPN. The Nurse Technician performs tasks delegated to him or her by the RN under direction supervision. While tasks or procedures may be delegated to the Nurse Technician, the functions of assessment and evaluation may not, including the preparation or alteration of a plan of care. The Nurse Technician may assist the RN in these functions, but may not perform them in their entirety.

The Nurse Technician position may be beneficial to students, graduates who do not hold a temporary permit, and graduates who have been unsuccessful on the licensing exam,

since it allows them an opportunity to gain from clinical experience apart from that of their nursing school program. In addition, it may be beneficial to the facility or agency since the Nurse Technician may seek future employment there.